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FOREIGN DEPARTMENT



IN CHARGE OF

LAVINIA L. DOCK, R.N.

EXAMINATIONS AND MARKINGS IN THE TRAINING SCHOOL OF THE PROTESTANT HOSPITAL, BORDEAUX

THERE is no training school in any country where the system of training and of careful estimation of the pupils' standing is more accurately and scientifically worked out upon an exact basis than in the hospital directed by Dr. Hamilton. She adds to the practical side of the work the benefit of her own training in exactitude as a medical woman. The July number of *La Garde-Malade* describes their method which we transcribe freely, space not permitting a literal translation:

The first-year pupils receive their course of twenty-three lectures from one physician, who is charged with the preparation of the entire course, in order that unity and method may be attained, and the gaps avoided that occur under a variety of lecturers, who are not individually familiar with the ground covered as a whole. Before each lecture, a certain number of pupils are quizzed on the last one and their marks for this quiz are recorded and added to those of their *final examination*. The reason for this is, that a pupil, who has done excellent work all through the year, may be nervous or have stage-fright at the time of final exams and not do herself justice at that time. The marking for the final might therefore not be fair to her, but this is avoided by taking her standing throughout the year into consideration.

During the entire period of twenty-two months of instruction the pupils receive monthly markings on the following points: Punctuality, cleanliness, neatness, quietness, industry, conscientiousness, docility, patience, capacity, reflection;—kindness;—manner, uniform, coiffure, and voice. It is certain, says Dr. Hamilton, that the most extensive cramming cannot atone for deficiencies or absence of these qualities in a nurse, and while it is much easier to produce a poor copy of the medical student, and to leave undone the careful and arduous work of hourly and daily training, which requires unremitting patience, perseverance, firmness, and concentration on the part of the head nurses and superin-

tendent, nevertheless, be the task ungracious with a few who do not realize what is to their own interest, the results are more than satisfactory with the rest.

The standing of the pupils in the four last points is considered highly important; the courtesy of manner, the details of the uniform, the way of dressing the hair, and the voice, gentle and reassuring, count for much with the patient. The marks given on all points throughout the two years give a fair estimate of the nurse's qualities. At the time of final examinations, the *average* (not the added figures) of all the monthly markings on each one of these points is added to the pupil's total marks. There is of course a maximum as well as a minimum.

The second year's examinations are both practical and theoretical. The former is conducted in the wards, the second in the classrooms. As the details of these examinations are very similar to the practical and theoretical examinations with which American nurses are familiar we need not describe them further, but point out this excellent practical provision: nurses, who, at the time of their final examination, still have some months of time to complete, do not receive their final standing until their time is actually finished. Thus by meritorious work until the last they may improve their total markings, as the monthly averages are added to that given at the time of the formal examinations.

Dr. Hamilton says: I am convinced that this method of bestowing marks is far more exact than that which bestows them according to the status of the pupil at examination time only. Considering the special nature of the nurse's work, it is indispensable that her success should be based upon the *ensemble* of qualifications needed for the good nurse.

In the same and succeeding number Miss Elston describes delightfully her visit to the Civil and Military hospital at Elbeuf, where Mlle. Gonthier is in charge as directrice.

The soldiers in the military wards, understanding that Miss Elston was the "general" of the nursing staff, stood in military order at the foot of the beds to give her the salute as she came down the line.

The hospital is an interesting and ancient one, and the nurses are performing wonders there, but it is clearly evident that they are not allowed by the administration to have sufficient numbers to do all the work without ruining their health or breaking their spirit. When will men learn what a woman's work is, and that to require one to do the work of three is not only cruel, but stupid? Never, I fear, and this is proof again of the need of women for the ballot, for the administration can only be reached by the pathway of the vote.

FOREIGN ITEMS

IN the *Nursing Journal of India* for August Miss Fahs, of Guntur, writes: "We have finally overcome the Indian prejudice to nursing, and now have more applicants than we can take. We have also overcome their prejudice against sweeping and all that they call degrading, and do not allow a sweeper to enter our wards: the nurses must do everything for the patients. It was up-hill work, but we succeeded and feel quite proud of our success."

IN *Nosokomos* for August we see that the city of Brussels has established her first public school nurse, who works, according to the item, "upon the American system."

GRADUATION OF FILIPINO NURSES

ON the 16th of June, 1910, at the St. Paul's Hospital hall, was held the graduating exercises of six young Filipino nurses. Dr. Musgrave acted as toastmaster. His Excellency Governor-General Cameron Forbes handed the diplomas, the class-pins were handed by Mrs. Jaime R. de Veyra. Mrs. Paul C. Free handed the prize, offered by the Medical School Association, to Miss Gloria, who has had the highest average through the years of her studies. The prize is a valuable and precious surgical nurse's bag.

The constabulary band played many pretty pieces of music. Among those present were the Governor-General, the Archbishop of Manila, Monsenieur Agius, Commissioners Worcester and Palma, and many others.

It was the biggest graduation day ever held in Manila, both bodies were represented there, the Government and the Church. The stage was covered with flowers sent to the graduates.

MISS M. S. RUNDLE, the first English nurse to enjoy the distinction of the scholarship founded in memory of Miss Isla Stewart, will arrive in New York in time for the opening term at Teachers College. Miss Rundle will be heartily welcomed and we hope she will feel that her winter here is worth while.

DR. ELIZABETH BLACKWELL said of Florence Nightingale: "To her, chiefly, I owe the awakening to the fact that sanitation is the supreme goal of medicine; its foundation and its crown."